

CONSTITUTION

of

The First Lutheran Church of Winnipeg
as adopted December 18th, 1934,
with Amendments up to
September 1955.



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Constitution

of

The First Lutheran Church of Winnipeg

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of the congregation is "The First Lutheran Church of Winnipeg".

ARTICLE II. CONFESSIONS

1. The congregation accepts the Word of God as it is revealed in the Holy Scriptures as the primary source and ultimate standard of Christian faith and life.

2. The congregation recognizes the ecumenical creeds, the unaltered Augsburg Confession and Luther's Smaller Catechism as important declarations showing how our Church fathers understood and interpreted the teachings of the Holy Scriptures.

3. The congregation shall be affiliated with "The Icelandic Evangelical Lutheran Synod of North America".

ARTICLE III. CHURCH WORSHIP AND LITURGY

The congregation shall conform to the usages of the Lutheran Church in matters of Church worship and liturgy with such variations as it may deem proper.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERS

1. The pastor or the board of trustees shall have authority to admit to membership in the congregation anyone who satisfies the following requirements:

(a) that he has been baptized;

- (b) that he has been confirmed, or makes a satisfactory profession of faith:
- (c) that he leads a Christian life:
- (d) that he acknowledges his acceptance of this constitution by signing the membership roll; and
- (e) that he agrees to contribute to the support of the congregation such annual sum as his circumstances permit.

2. Members who are under the age of eighteen years shall be entitled to participate in discussions at meetings of the congregation, but only those members who are of the full age of eighteen years shall have the right to vote, and only those who are of the full age of twenty-one years shall be eligible for election to office.—1938

3. Any member of the congregation may resign from membership by giving written notice to the pastor or to the board of trustees of his intention to do so. On such resignation he shall forfeit all interest in the property of the congregation.

4. The names of members (a) who have not contributed to the support of the congregation for five consecutive years and have ceased to reside in the City of Winnipeg or an adjoining municipality, or (b) who have become members of another congregation, may be stricken from the membership roll by unanimous action of the board of trustees assembled in regular meeting, and any person whose name is so stricken from the membership roll shall thereupon cease to be a member of the congregation.

ARTICLE V. POWERS OF CONGREGATION

The congregation has power to decide all questions affecting the congregation. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution, every question submitted to a meeting shall be decided by a majority of the votes cast.

ARTICLE VI. BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1. The affairs of the congregation, except to the extent that the administration of the spiritual affairs of the congregation is expressly assigned to the pastor and

board of deacons under this constitution, shall be managed and administered by a board of trustees. The chairman of the board of deacons shall be an ex officio member of the board of trustees and there shall be ten other members of whom five shall be elected at each annual meeting of the congregation. The elected members shall hold office for two years and until their successors are elected, and shall be eligible for re-election. If more than five persons are nominated, the election shall be by ballot.—1955

2. In the event of an election by ballot every member of the congregation having the right to vote shall be entitled to vote for as many candidates as there are vacancies to be filled and no more. The candidates up to the number of vacancies who shall receive the highest number of votes shall be declared elected, provided they have received a majority of the total number of votes cast. If fewer than the whole number to be elected have received the requisite number of votes, the candidates who have received a majority of the total number of votes cast shall be declared elected, and the members shall proceed to ballot on the remaining candidates until the requisite number have been elected by a majority of the total number of votes cast. If more than one ballot is necessary the candidate or candidates receiving the lowest number of votes on any ballot shall be eliminated on the next ballot by such method of elimination as the congregation may determine at such meeting. This section shall also apply to the election of the members of the board of deacons.

3. The said trustees shall be the trustees of the congregation within the meaning of "The Church Lands Act", and all the property of the congregation shall be vested in them under the corporate name of "Trustees of the First Lutheran Church in the City of Winnipeg, in the Province of Manitoba." All transfers, deeds, mortgages and other instruments or documents to which the said trustees in their corporate capacity are a party shall be deemed to be properly executed if their corporate seal is affixed thereto, attested by the signatures of the president, or vice-president, and the secretary.

ARTICLE VII. OFFICERS

1. The officers of the congregation shall consist of the pastor, a president, a vice-president, a secretary and a treasurer and such other officers as the board of trustees may determine.

2. All of the said officers, other than the pastor, shall be elected annually by the board of trustees from among their own number.

3. If the office of the president, vice-president, secretary or treasurer becomes vacant during the year the board of trustees shall fill the vacancy.

ARTICLE VIII. PASTOR

1. The pastor shall be elected by ballot at a meeting of the congregation duly called for that specified purpose. In order to be duly elected he must receive at least two-thirds of the votes cast at such meeting, and he must have been nominated at a previous meeting of the congregation.

2. No one shall be eligible for election as pastor of the congregation unless he acknowledges his acceptance of this constitution by signing the membership roll, and possesses the following qualifications, that is to say: (a) that he is a graduate in theology of a theological institution of recognized standing and possesses general educational qualifications fitting him for his calling; (b) that he professes the Lutheran faith and has been duly ordained as a Lutheran minister; and (c) that he leads a Christian life.

3. The pastor shall have the right to terminate his engagement at any time by giving to the congregation six months' notice in writing of his intention to do so. The congregation shall have the right to terminate the engagement of the pastor at any time by giving to him six months' notice in writing of its intention to do so, provided such termination has been authorized by at least two-thirds of the votes cast at a meeting of the congregation duly called for that specified purpose and provided that a motion to terminate such engagement shall have been made, or a notice of intention to make such motion shall have been given, at the next preceding meeting of the congregation.

ARTICLE IX. BOARD OF DEACONS

1. There shall be a board of deacons, consisting of the pastor and the superintendent of the Sunday school and the president of the congregation as ex officio members and ten other members elected by the congregation, of whom five shall be elected at each annual meeting of the congregation. The elected members shall hold office for a period of two years and until their successors are elected, and shall be eligible for reelection. If more than five persons are nominated, the election shall be by ballot.—1955.

2. The board of deacons shall elect annually from among their own number a chairman and such other officers as the board of deacons may determine, and they shall have such authority and shall perform such duties as from time to time shall be prescribed by the board of deacons.

3. It shall be the duty of the deacons to assist the pastor in administering the spiritual affairs of the congregation, especially in matters pertaining to public worship and the administration of the sacraments. They shall have the oversight of the work of young people's societies and the work of the Sunday school and other Christian instruction of children; they shall solicit new members and promote attendance at religious services; they shall visit the sick and bereaved, and relieve the distress of the needy.

ARTICLE X. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

1. The pastor shall have the oversight of the spiritual affairs of the congregation and perform such duties as are usually performed by pastors in the Lutheran Church.

2. The president shall call and preside at all meetings of the congregation and of the board of trustees, and shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office of president of a congregation or are required of him by the board of trustees. In case of an equality of votes at any meeting of the congregation or of the board of trustees the president shall have a casting vote.

3. The vice-president shall be vested with all the powers and shall perform all the duties of the president

in the absence or disability or refusal to act of the president.

4. The secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of all meetings held by the congregation and by the trustees; he shall have charge of all books, records and papers of the congregation and of the seal of the trustees; he shall issue or cause to be issued notices for all meetings of the congregation and of the board of trustees when directed so to do by the president, and shall perform such other duties as are incident to his office or as may be required of him from time to time by the trustees.

5. The treasurer shall have the care and custody of all the funds and securities of the congregation that come into the hands of the board of trustees and shall deposit the same in the name of the congregation in such bank or banks as the board of trustees may direct; he shall keep an account of the receipts and disbursements of the board of trustees, and shall not pay out any money except as authorized by the board of trustees; and he shall perform such other duties as are incident to his office or as may be required of him from time to time by the trustees. He may be required to give such surety company bond for the faithful performance of his duties as the board of trustees in their uncontrolled discretion may require, and no trustee shall be liable for failure to require any bond or for the insufficiency or invalidity of any bond or for any loss by reason of the failure of the congregation to receive any indemnity thereby provided.

ARTICLE XI. AUDITORS

1. The congregation shall at each annual meeting elect two auditors, who shall hold office until the next annual meeting. If more than two persons are nominated, the election shall be by ballot.

2. The auditors shall, as soon as practicable after the close of the fiscal year in which they are elected, audit the accounts of the congregation and shall make a report thereon, and the accounts so audited and the auditors' report thereon shall be laid before the next annual meeting of the congregation.

ARTICLE XII. VACANCIES

1. Vacancies occurring on the board of trustees between annual meetings of the congregation may be filled until the next annual meeting of the congregation by the remaining trustees.

2. Vacancies occurring on the board of deacons between annual meetings of the congregation may be filled until the next annual meeting of the congregation by the remaining deacons.

ARTICLE XIII. MEETINGS

1. The annual meeting of the congregation shall be held at such time in the month of November as the trustees determine. If, for any reason, such meeting is not held in such month, it may be held so soon thereafter as the trustees determine.

2. The trustees may, whenever they think proper, and they shall upon requisition in writing by ten members of the congregation in good standing and entitled to vote, call a special meeting of the congregation. Any such requisition shall specify the object of the meeting to be called.

3. The annual meeting of the congregation shall be called by written notice read to the congregation by the officiating minister, during or at the close of public worship, and before the congregation shall have been dismissed, on each of the two Sundays next preceeding the holding of the said meeting.

4. Special meetings of the congregation may be called on forty-eight hours' notice given during or at the close of public worship, and before the congregation shall have been dismissed, on the Sunday next preceeding the holding of the said meeting.

ARTICLE XIV. QUORUM

1. Five trustees shall form a quorum for the transaction of business at meetings of the board of trustees.

2. Five deacons shall form a quorum for the transaction of business at meetings of the board of deacons.

ARTICLE XV. FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the congregation shall terminate on the thirtieth day of November in each year.—1951.

ARTICLE XVI. PROPERTY

The property of this congregation cannot pass into the hands of others unless the congregation so determines by two-thirds of all votes cast at a meeting of the congregation duly called for that specified purpose. If a division occurs in the congregation the property shall belong to such portion as adheres to this constitution.

ARTICLE XVII. AMMENDMENTS

The congregation, at any meeting duly called for that specified purpose, may amend or repeal any of the provisions of this constitution, other than section 1 of Article II., but no amendment or repeal shall be made unless it is passed by at least two-thirds of the votes cast at such meeting and unless written notice of the meeting and of the nature of the proposed amendment has been read to the congregation by the officiating minister, during or at the close of public worship, and before the congregation shall have been dismissed, on each of the two Sundays next preceding the holding of the said meeting. Section 1 of Article II. shall never be amended or repealed.—1955.

ARTICLE XVIII. REPEAL

The constitution of the congregation heretofore in force and all amendments thereto are hereby repealed.

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